

Communication

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An unfortunate mistake in the publication of the magazine *World Shells* no. 23, led to suppress one paragraph in a paper devoted by the authors to the description and comments about a new species from Chagos Archipelago.

The forgotten part dealt with the references to the type material of *Prunum chagosi* n. sp.

These references are :

– Holotype (9.4 x 6.6 mm). Deposited in Natal Museum (Acc. no. L 3926/T 1517). Figures 1 and 2 : upper rank left.

– Paratype 1 (10.4 x 7.2 mm), and paratype 2 (9.6 x 6.5 mm) in B. Hayes collection. Figures 1 and 2 : upper rank, centre and right.

– Paratype 3 (10.0 x 7.5 mm) in F. Boyer collection. Figures 1 and 2 : lower rank left.

– Paratype 4 (9.4 x 7.0 mm) in Paris Museum. Figures 1 and 2 : lower rank right.

Type locality is Chagos Islands, bathyal level (215 m).

The principal interest of this species lies in its biogeography, as *Prunum chagosi* n. sp. presents – as far as shell morphology is concerned – some close similarities with the recent Caribbean *Prunum apicinum* (Menke, 1828), and with several Florida species from Pliocene, better than with species occurring in Indo-Pacific. For instance, *Cryptospira*

fisheri (Bavay, 1902), from the Philippines, is clearly distinct from *P. chagosi* n. sp. in some important features, such as the structure of the columellar pleats and the thickened, sharply stepped margin, extending on the dorsal part of the siphonal canal.

After other similar discoveries in the same area (as *Marginella henrikasi* Bozzetti, 1995, which greatly looks like the phenae belonging to the group *Marginella denticulata* Link, from Northwest Africa), the Chagos Archipelago has to be considered as an important tethyan relict pocket, situated in the south part of the Chagos-Laquedive Plateau, under the equatorial latitudes and probably better protected in the past from climatic disturbances than the Arabian Sea, the Indian Peninsula and their close neighbourhood. This probable relict pocket deserves to be the subject of a special oceanographic schedule, principally devoted to marine biology – first of all demersal and benthic fauna of non-planktonic species.

REFERENCE

- Hayes B. & Boyer F., 1997. The discovery of a new species of *Marginella* from the Chagos Archipelago, Indian Ocean. *World Shells*, 23 : 54-56.